

**Description:** This course is designed to give students an account of the different morphological systems and tools that languages make use of. Morphology is the study of words, their structure and formation, and so this course will look at languages according to the various word formation methods they employ.

What is a morphological system?

A morphological system is the rules by which a certain language expresses and manifests its words and their different realizations within a paradigm. The course aims to explain and detail how concatenative and non-concatenative morphological systems operate. These two seemingly antithetical systems will be defined, looking at examples from languages on both ends of the spectrum, and judging whether systems can really be one or the other.

A concatenative morphological system forms its words through stringing a chain of morphemes, one after the other. This type of formation may be inflectional, derivational, or both inflectional and derivational. The meaning the formed words yield is compositional, i.e. one can understand the meaning of a word by adding the sum of the meanings of its constituent morphemes. Prefixation and suffixation are among the most productive concatenative processes in English. Most, but not all, word formation in English is concatenative.

Non-concatenative morphology, on the other hand, involves modification on the root/stem of a word, rather than chaining morphemes to it sequentially. Non-concatenative morphology in English includes 'irregular' plural formation as well as some 'irregular' verbs. Among well-developed non-concatenative morphological systems, Semitic languages - especially Arabic- provide an ample example of how that system functions.

This course aims to delve into these two extremes of morphological organization, starting with and focusing on regular English morphology, which is concatenative in nature, contrasting it with Arabic examples. The course is designed in such a way that the main objective to be tackled is an understanding of the differences between concatenative and non-concatenative morphology, specially, English morphology. Arabic examples will only be given inasmuch as it is relevant to non-concatenation. Hungarian examples will be used as a case of extreme concatenation; agglutination.

**Material:** You will have a handout for each topic. I will either send you the handouts via email or upload them to the SEAS website. You can print them out or keep them in their PDF format; that is up to you.

Selected readings from the following books/paper: Gianto, Agustinus & Ratcliffe, Robert. (2000). The 'Broken' Plural Problem in Arabic and Comparative Semitic: Allomorphy and Analogy in Non-Concatenative Morphology. *Language*. 76. 234. 10.2307/417465. \*AMONG OTHER PAPERS\*

English word-formation: Bauer, Laurie. London: Cambridge University Press, 1982

Haspelmath, M., & Sims, A. (2010). *Understanding Morphology* (2nd ed.). Routledge.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203776506>

Hippisley, A., & Stump, G. (Eds.). (2016). *The Cambridge Handbook of Morphology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

**Grading:**

35% midterm exam

50% final exam

15% participation and homework

**Attendance:** Regular attendance in this on-campus course is a must and will be regularly checked. As per ELTE's policy, no student can be absent more than 3 times.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask it in class, or via email if you feel that that's more convenient.